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VANCOUVER-CLARK  
**PARKS &**  
Recreation

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**May 2010**

# Tower Crest Neighborhood Park Frequently Asked Questions

## **Why is this park being developed?**

This property was originally acquired by Clark County with the intention of developing it as a neighborhood park once funding was available to maintain it. In 2005, voters in the unincorporated urban area of the county approved a ballot measure that created the Greater Clark Parks District ([www.clarkparks.org](http://www.clarkparks.org)). This special taxing district provides maintenance and operations funding for 30 new neighborhood parks, five new community parks, seven miles of new trail and additional youth sports fields. Tower Crest Neighborhood Park was one of the 30 neighborhood park properties that were identified as being part of the Greater Clark Parks District during the campaign. It is now being developed as part of this program.

## **When will construction start?**

Construction may start in 2011, if funding is available.

## **What is the construction budget?**

Approximately \$420,800.

## **How is this project being paid for?**

Funding to design and construct this project comes from:

- Park impact fees, which are paid by developers whenever new homes are built
- Real estate excise taxes, which are paid whenever homes are sold

Maintenance will be paid for with property taxes collected by the Greater Clark Parks District ([www.clarkparks.org](http://www.clarkparks.org)), which was approved by voters in the unincorporated urban area of Clark County in 2005.

All of these funding sources are dedicated to parks and cannot be used for other purposes. The economic downturn has reduced the amount of money going into these funds. The county plans to complete design and permitting this year, and will continue to monitor revenue levels to determine when construction can begin.

### **Will there be parking and restrooms?**

No. Neighborhood parks are designed for people living within the adjacent neighborhoods to walk or ride their bike to, not drive. They are not meant to be “destination” parks that attract visitors from outside the immediate neighborhood. As a result, the budget for this park does not include funding for parking lots or restrooms.

### **Is the property south of the water tower part of the park?**

No. The large property south of the water tower and next to Kunze Farm is owned by the city of Vancouver’s Public Works Department. The city currently allows public access on this property, but it is not part of Tower Crest Neighborhood Park.

### **What will happen to the bicycle track and jumps installed by local youth?**

For the most part, the bicycle track and jumps are located on the property owned by the city of Vancouver’s Public Works Department. This property is maintained and managed separately from the park. The Public Works Department will decide what happens to the bicycle track and jumps. The trails within the neighborhood park property and jumps leading out onto NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street will be removed due to safety concerns.

### **Will neighbors still be able to walk through the park to get to Kunze Farm?**

The owners of Kunze Farm have asked the county to restrict access to and from the park and their private road. As a result, the draft concept plan for the park does not include a trail leading to the farm. However, the plan will continue to allow pedestrian/bicycle access between the park property and the adjacent Public Works Department’s property.

### **Will dogs be allowed in the park?**

Leashed dogs will be allowed in the park. Clark County Code prohibits unleashed dogs in any public park, except officially recognized off-leash dog parks. Clark County Code also requires owners to pick up after their pets.

### **What will happen to all the trees?**

Selected trees will have to be removed in order to make room for a walkway along NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street, picnic areas or a playground. However, the vast majority of the trees will be retained and any trails will be designed to wind through the trees. Some shrubs and small trees in the NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street side of the park may also be removed in order to improve visibility into the park from the road. Staff will have a better idea of how many trees will have to be removed after the design is complete.

### **What kind of road improvements will be made?**

Clark County will likely be asked to install either sidewalk or a detached walkway with curb and gutter along the south side of NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street in front of the park.

### **Who will maintain the park after it’s built?**

After construction is complete, Clark County Public Works will visit the park at least once a week in the winter and potentially up to seven days a week in the summer, when park use increases, to perform regular maintenance. Park maintenance includes mowing, weed removal, tree and plant care, garbage pick up, and equipment repairs.

### **Can I install a gate from my yard into the park?**

Neighbors who share a property line with the park may pay to have a gate installed in the park's chain link fence *after construction is completed*. Interested neighbors must contact Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation in advance to request a gate agreement. For more information, call Brian Potter at (360) 619-1123.

### **How can I get more information about this project?**

Please visit the project Web page at: [www.clarkparks.org/projects/towercrest.htm](http://www.clarkparks.org/projects/towercrest.htm).

Or contact:

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